

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:	Unknown)
)
Filing Date:	Unknown)
)
Priority Date:	2 September 2000)
)
Applicants:	MOIR, Mark)
)
For:	TELEVISION SYSTEM)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director For Patents
Box: New Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to the enclosed application entitled "Television System" claiming priority to British Patent Application No. 0021547.5 filed 2 September 2000.

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title, insert the following headers and paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to British Patent Application 0021547.5 filed 2 September 2000.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 1, lines 2, 16 and 27 change "favorites" to --favorites-- line 25, change "programme" to --program--.

Page 2, lines 3, 4 and 14 change "favourite" to --favorite--; before line 16, insert the Header:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 2, lines 20, and 22, change "programme" to --program--; lines 26, 28, and 31 change "programmes" to --programs--; line 25, change "characterised" to --characterized--.

Page 3, lines 1, 5, 11, 17 and 19 change "programmes" to --programs--; lines 4, and 6 change "favourite" to --favorite-- lines 26 change "programme" to --program--.

Page 4, line 4 change "characterised" to --characterized--; lines 4, 9, 19, 24 and 29 change "programmes" to --programs--; line 12 change "An" to --an--; lines 6, 15 and 21 change "programme" to --program--; lines 3 and 18, change "characterised" to --characterized--.

Page 5, lines 4, 15, 24, 25, 27 and 29 change "programme" to --program--; line 7 change "characterised" to --characterized-- and delete the second occurrence of "in that"; lines 9, 13, and 22 change "programmes" to --programs--; line 15 change "favourite" to --favorite--.

Page 6, lines 4, 6 and 16 change "favourite" to --favorite--; line 5 change "programme" to --program--; lines 7 two occurrences, change "programmes" to --programs--;

Page 6, before line 9, insert the Header:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 6, before line 13, add the Header:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

Page 6, line 24 change "coloured" to --colored--.

Page 7, line 6 change "coloured" to --colored--; lines 10 and 23 change "favourites" to --favorites--; line 15 change "coloured" to --colored--; line 26 change "utilise" to --utilize--.

Page 7, after the last line, insert the following paragraph:

--While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components

without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A television system said system comprising: [including] a display screen [(2),]; a broadcast data receiver [(3)] for receiving and processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic [programme] program guide [(EPG),]; said [EPG] electronic program guide being used to provide channel and/or television [programme] program listings/schedules and/or information for display on said display screen[, said system including]: a remote control means [(6)] for controlling one or more functions thereof[,]; and [characterised in that] wherein one or more channels and/or [programmes] programs which are displayed in the [EPG] electronic program guide are selected by the user using the remote control [(6)], and said selected channel(s)/[programme] program(s) from the [EPG] electronic program guide are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control, thereafter allowing access to said one or more channels/[programmes] programs by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.

2. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said one or more selected channels/[programmes] programs relate to pre-determined criteria.

3. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that programmes] wherein programmes and/or channels are assigned to at least one of the four [coloured (fast text)] colored buttons [(8, 10, 12, 14)] on [the] said remote control [(6)].

4. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the user assigns channels/[programmes] programs to said one or more pre-defined control buttons.

5. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein a broadcaster or manufacturer of [the] said television system assigns channels/[programmes] programs to said one or more pre-defined control buttons.

6. (Amended) A television system according to claim 2 [characterised in that the] wherein said pre-determined criteria includes one or more subject matter categories.

7. (Amended) A television system according to claim 2 [characterised in that the] wherein said pre-determined criteria includes one or more user-selected [favourite] favorite channels.

8. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that the EPG] wherein said electronic program guide display is provided with a pop-up window [(18)] displayable on said [the] display screen [(2)] to inform the user which subject matter categories and /or [favourite] favorite channels/[programmes] programs are assigned or mapped to which control buttons on [the] said remote control unit [(6)].

9. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that if] wherein two or more channels and/or [programmes] programs [are] may be assigned to a control button relating to particular pre-determined criteria thereafter[,] the user can scroll through the one or more channels/[programmes] programs assigned to that button using scroll and/or directional buttons on [the] said remote control [(6)].

10. (Amended) A broadcast data receiver [(BDR) (3)] said broadcast data receiver comprising: means for receiving and processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic [programme] program guide [(EPG)],; said [EPG] electronic program guide being used to provide channel and/or television [programme] program listings/schedules and/or information for display on a display screen [(2)] connected to or forming an integral part of said [BDR (3),] broadcast data receiver; a remote control means [(6)] is provided for controlling one or more functions of said [BDR] broadcast data receiver, and [characterised in that] wherein one or more channels and/or [programmes] programs relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed in the [EPG] electronic program guide are selected by the user using the remote control [(6)], said selected channel(s)/[programme]program(s) from the [EPG] electronic program guide are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control [(6)], thereafter allowing access to said one or more channels/[programmes] programs relating to said pre-determined criteria by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.

11. (Amended) An electronic [programme] program guide [(EPG)], said [EPG] electronic program guide being generated from data received and processed via a broadcast data receiver [(3)], said [EPG] electronic program guide [used to provide] providing channel and/or television

[programme] program listings/schedules and/or information for display on a display screen [(2)] connected to or forming an integral part of said [BDR (3),] broadcast data receiver; a remote control means [(6) is] being provided for controlling one or more functions of said [BDR (3),] broadcast data receiver; and [characterised in that] wherein one or more channels and/or [programmes] programs relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed in the [EPG are] electronic program guide may be are selected by the user using the remote control [(6),]; said selected channel(s)/[programme]programs(s) from the [EPG] electronic program guide are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control [(6)], thereafter allowing access to said one or more channels/[programmes] programs relating to said pre-determined criteria by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.

12. (Amended) A method of assigning one or more channels and/or [programmes] programs relating to pre-determined criteria from an [EPG] electronic program guide to one or more pre-defined control buttons on a remote control unit [(6)] of a television system, [said television system] including a display screen; [(2)], a broadcast data receiver [(3)] for receiving and processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic [programme] program guide [(EPG),]; said [EPG] electronic program guide being used to provide channel and/or television [programme] program listings/schedules and/or information for display on said display screen [(2)], said remote control unit [(6)] for controlling one or more functions of said television system, [and characterised in that in that] said method includes the steps of; selecting one or more channels and/or [programmes] programs relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed on an [EPG] electronic program guide of said television system[.]; and depressing a user-defined control

button on said remote control [(6)] for a predetermined period of time for each selected channel and thereby assigning one or more channels and/or [programmes] programs relating to pre-determined criteria to said remote control button.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 [characterised in that] wherein once the selected channels and/or [programmes] programs have been assigned to a remote control button, the user [is required to depress] depresses the control button to view said channels and/or [programmes] programs relating to said pre-determined criteria.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 [characterised in that,] wherein when the channel and/or [programme] program is selected and assigned to a button of pre-determined criteria, a confirmation message appears on the display screen [(2) and/or remote control (6)] to inform the user that the channel and/or [programme] program has been assigned to the depressed control button.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 [characterised in that the EPG] wherein the electronic program guide identifies user selected channels and/or [programmes] programs which have been assigned to one or more pre-defined buttons on [the] said remote control [(6)] when [the EPG] said electronic program guide is displayed on [the] said display screen [(2)].

16. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 [characterised in that] wherein once one or more channels and/or [programmes] programs relating to a pre-determined criteria have been assigned to a button on [the] said remote control [(6)], any existing channels/[programmes]

programs previously assigned to that button are replaced by the newly selected channels/[programmes] programs.

17. (Amended) A method according to claim 16 [characterised in that] wherein a message is displayed on [the] said display screen [(2)] to inform the user that an existing channel and/or [programme] program has previously been assigned to the button, thereby providing the user with the option of selecting a different button if required.

18. (New) A method according to claim 12 wherein when the channel and/or program is selected and assigned to a button of pre-determined criteria, a confirmation message appears on said remote control to inform the user that the channel and/or program has been assigned to the depressed control button.

REMARKS

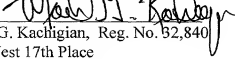
Attached are the marked up versions of the claims and new paragraphs as required in Section 1.121(4) (ii).

The application should now be in condition for examination, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Dated: 31 August 2001

BY: 
Mark G. Kachigian, Reg. No. 32,840
228 West 17th Place
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119
(918) 584-4187
Attorneys for Applicant

Replacement Title: Television Program Selection Means

New Header to be Inserted on Page 1, before line 1:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to British Patent Application No.
0021547.5 filed 2 September 2000

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION-

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Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 1:

This invention relates to a television system having means to allow a user to flag one or more favorite/preferred channels.

Although a large number of channels are available for a user to view, it is likely that a user will have a number of preferred channels which he/she will frequently watch. Conventionally, if a user wants to watch a particular preferred channel, the user has to scroll through each channel in turn until they find their favorite channel or they have to remember the channel number of the same and type this number into the remote control. The large number of channels available makes it difficult for a user to remember a number of preferred channels and it is time consuming for a user to have to select each channel in turn to find their preferred channel.

In order to overcome the above problem, some television systems provide a means for flagging favorite/preferred channels. For example, in a television system incorporating an EPG, channel and program information are typically provided in a grid format for display on the display screen. In order for a user to flag favorite/preferred channels the user may be required to generate a new display grid of preferred channels by selecting each preferred channel in turn from a list of available

Header and paragraph to be Inserted into Page 2:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 2:

channels using a single button on a remote control to cycle through the same. When the user reaches a channel they wish to select, they can select the same as a favorite channel. In future when the user wishes to tune to a previously flagged favorite channel, the user is required to return to the grid display and select a particular channel from the list of preferred channels. Sometimes this system is an interactive system which means the user may need to cycle through many channels to get to the one they want, and each time the user moves down to the next channel on the grid of available channels, the set top box tunes into that channel before moving onto further channels on the list. This is obviously time consuming and therefore undesirable.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a system to allow a user to flag preferred/favorite channels and/or programs which is quick and easy to use.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a television system including a display screen, a broadcast data receiver for receiving and processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic program guide (EPG), said EPG being used to provide channel and/or television program listings/schedules and/or information for display on said display screen, said system including remote control means for controlling one or more functions thereof, and characterized in that one or more channels and/or programs which are displayed in the EPG are selected by the user using the remote control, and said selected channel(s)/program(s) from the EPG are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control, thereafter allowing access to said one or more channels/programs by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted Into Page 3:

Preferably the one or more selected channels/programs relate to pre-determined criteria, typically of interest to the user.

Preferably the pre-determined criteria relate to one or more subject matter categories and/or user-selected favorite channels and/or programs.

Preferably the four favorite channels are assigned to the four colored (fast text) buttons on the remote control. When the user wishes to change to a favorite channel, the user simply needs to press the corresponding colored button.

Preferably a pop-up window can be displayed on the display screen to show the user which channels, programs and/or pre-determined criteria are mapped to which control buttons.

Preferably when a number of programs and/or channels are assigned to a button on the remote control, the user can scroll through the one or more channels/programs using scroll and/or directional buttons on the remote control.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a broadcast data receiver (BDR) for receiving and processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic program guide (EPG), said EPG being used to provide channel and/or television programme listings/schedules and/or information for display on a display screen connected to

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted Into Page 4:

or forming an integral part of said BDR, a remote control means is provided for controlling one or more functions of said BDR, and characterized in that one or more channels and/or programs relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed in the EPG are selected by the user using the remote control, said selected channel(s)/program(s) from the EPG are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control, thereby allowing access to said one or more channels/programs relating to said pre-determined criteria by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided an electronic program guide (EPG), said EPG being generated from data received and processed via a broadcast data receiver, said EPG used to provide channel and/or television program listings/schedules and/or information for display on a display screen connected to or forming an integral part of said BDR, a remote control means is provided for controlling one or more functions of said BDR, and characterized in that one or more channels and/or programs relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed in the EPG are selected by the user using the remote control, said selected channel(s)/program(s) from the EPG are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control, thereby allowing access to said one or more channels/programs relating to said pre-determined criteria by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.

According to a yet further aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of assigning one or more channels and/or programs relating to pre-determined criteria from an EPG to one or more pre-defined control buttons on a remote control unit of a television system, said television system including a display screen, a broadcast data receiver for receiving and

Replacement Paragraph to be Inserted Into Page 5

processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic program guide (EPG), said EPG being used to provide channel and/or television program listings/schedules and/or information for display on said display screen, said remote control unit for controlling one or more functions of said television system, and characterized in that in that said method includes the steps of selecting one or more channels and/or programs relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed on an EPG of said television system, depressing a user-defined control button on said remote control for a predetermined period of time for each selected channel and thereby assigning one or more channels and/or programs relating to pre-determined criteria to said remote control button.

Once a preferred/favourite channel and/or program has been assigned to a remote control button, in the future the user has to simply depress the control button to view the said channel.

Preferably a confirmation message will appear on the display screen and/or remote control to inform the user that the channel has been assigned to the depressed control button.

Preferably the EPG identifies flagged user preferred channels/programs when the EPG is displayed on the display screen.

Typically once a channel/program has been assigned to a control button, an existing channel/program previously assigned to that button, will be replaced by the newly selected channel/program.

Page 6, Before Line 9 Insert the Following Header:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 6, Before Line 13 Insert the Following Header:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 6:

An advantage of the present invention is that it allows a user to quickly and easily select a favorite/preferred channel/program using a single button. It also provides a quick and easy method of flagging favorite channels/programs and/or programs/channels relating to pre-determined subject matter.

Referring to Figure 1, there is illustrated a television system including a display screen 2 and a broadcast data receiver 3. The television system is provided with means to enable a user to quickly and easily flag favourite/preferred channels. A user selects a particular channel they wish to flag as a favorite channel and the television system tunes into the selected channel and displays the same on the screen 2.

A number of buttons 4 are provided on the remote control 6 to allow the user to move between different channels. The remote control 6 includes further control buttons 8, 10, 12 and 14 and are colored red, blue, green, yellow respectively. The user selects a particular coloured button 8 and depresses the same for a pre-determined period of time, thereby assigning the selected channel to button 8. A confirmation message 16 appears on the display screen 2 to inform the user that the channel, in case the channel entitled "movies" has been successfully assigned to button 8.

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted Into Page 7

The pop-up window 18 can be displayed by depressing a colored button 8, 10, 12 or 14. Further depression of the appropriate one of the displayed buttons will then switch the television system to the required flagged channel.

For example, and as illustrated in Figures 1 & 2, if a user wishes to set the movie channel as one of their quick select favorites, the user selects the movie channel from the EPG display. The movie channel can also be selected by entering the numerical value of the channel or scrolling through the channels until the preferred channel is found.

The user then has to decide which of the colored fast text buttons on the remote control the selected channel is to be assigned thereto. The user-selected button is then depressed for a predetermined period of time, for example, 2-3 seconds, thereby flagging the "movie" channel to that particular button on the remote control. In future, when the user wishes to view the "movie" channel, the user simply depresses the particular button 12 to which the movie channel is assigned.

Thus the present invention allows a user to select a favorite channel quickly and easily by depressing a single button. The system requires no complicated setting up, thereby enabling users of all ages to utilize the system.

New Paragraph for Page 7 to be Inserted After the Last Line:

While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.

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Clean Version of the Claims

1. (Amended) A television system, said system comprising: a display screen; a broadcast data receiver for receiving and processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic program guide; said electronic program guide being used to provide channel and/or television program listings/schedules and/or information for display on said display screen; a remote control means for controlling one or more functions thereof; and wherein one or more channels and/or programs which are displayed in the electronic program guide are selected by the user using the remote control, and said selected channel(s)/program(s) from the electronic program guide are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control, thereafter allowing access to said one or more channels/programs by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.

2. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said one or more selected channels/programs relate to pre-determined criteria.

3. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein programs and/or channels are assigned to at least one of the four colored buttons on said remote control.

4. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein the user assigns channels/programs to said one or more pre-defined control buttons.

5. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein a broadcaster or manufacturer of said television system assigns channels/ programs to said one or more pre-defined control buttons.

6. (Amended) A television system according to claim 2 wherein said pre-determined criteria includes one or more subject matter categories.

7. (Amended) A television system according to claim 2 wherein said pre-determined criteria includes one or more user-selected favorite channels.

8. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said electronic program guide display is provided with a pop-up window displayable on said display screen to inform the user which subject matter categories and/or favorite channels/programs are assigned or mapped to which control buttons on said remote control unit.

9. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein two or more channels and/or programs may be assigned to a control button relating to particular pre-determined criteria thereafter the user can scroll through the one or more channels/programs assigned to that button using scroll and/or directional buttons on said remote control.

10. (Amended) A broadcast data receiver, said broadcast data receiver comprising: means for receiving and processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic program guide; said electronic program guide being used to provide channel and/or television program listings/schedules and/or information for display on a display screen connected to or forming an integral part of said broadcast data receiver; a remote control means is provided for controlling one or more functions of said broadcast data receiver, and wherein one or more

channels and/or programs relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed in the electronic program guide are selected by the user using the remote control, said selected channel(s)/program(s) from the electronic program guide are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control, thereafter allowing access to said one or more channels/programs relating to said pre-determined criteria by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.

11. (Amended) An electronic program guide, said electronic program guide being generated from data received and processed via a broadcast data receiver, said electronic program guide providing channel and/or television program listings/schedules and/or information for display on a display screen connected to or forming an integral part of said broadcast data receiver; a remote control means being provided for controlling one or more functions of said broadcast data receiver; and wherein one or more channels and/or programs relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed in the electronic program guide may be selected by the user using the remote control; said selected channel(s)/programs(s) from the electronic program guide are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control, thereafter allowing access to said one or more channels/programs relating to said pre-determined criteria by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.

12. (Amended) A method of assigning one or more channels and/or programs relating to pre-determined criteria from an electronic program guide to one or more pre-defined control buttons on a remote control unit of a television system, including a display screen; a broadcast data receiver for receiving and processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary

data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic program guide; said electronic program guide being used to provide channel and/or television program listings/schedules and/or information for display on said display screen, said remote control unit for controlling one or more functions of said television system, said method includes the steps of: selecting one or more channels and/or programs relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed on an electronic program guide of said television system; and depressing a user-defined control button on said remote control for a predetermined period of time for each selected channel and thereby assigning one or more channels and/or programs relating to pre-determined criteria to said remote control button.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein once the selected channels and/or programs have been assigned to a remote control button, the user depresses the control button to view said channels and/or programs relating to said pre-determined criteria.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein when the channel and/or program is selected and assigned to a button of pre-determined criteria, a confirmation message appears on the display screen to inform the user that the channel and/or program has been assigned to the depressed control button.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein the electronic program guide identifies user selected channels and/or programs which have been assigned to one or more pre-defined buttons on said remote control when said electronic program guide is displayed on said display screen.

16. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein once one or more

channels and/or programs relating to a pre-determined criteria have been assigned to a button on said remote control, any existing channels/programs previously assigned to that button are replaced by the newly selected channels/programs.

17. (Amended) A method according to claim 16 wherein a message is displayed on said display screen to inform the user that an existing channel and/or program has previously been assigned to the button, thereby providing the user with the option of selecting a different button if required.

18. (New) A method according to claim 12 wherein when the channel and/or program is selected and assigned to a button of pre-determined criteria, a confirmation message appears on said remote control to inform the user that the channel and/or program has been assigned to the depressed control button.